

Why Energy Matters in Nelson, BC



Environment

- **Energy use = emissions.** Many common energy sources—like natural gas, oil, and gasoline—release greenhouse gases when burned.
- **In our region, energy use drives climate change.** In BC, heating buildings and water accounts for a large portion of carbon emissions. In Nelson, that often means electric baseboard heat, natural gas, or oil heating.
- **Climate change hits close to home.** From smoky skies and extreme wildfire seasons to floods and food insecurity, we're seeing the local effects right here in the Kootenays. These impacts threaten ecosystems, tourism, farming, and public health.



Cost Savings

- **Energy is expensive.** For small businesses, costs for lighting, heating, cooling, and equipment can quietly eat into margins.
- **Small changes = real savings.** Turning off unused appliances, managing thermostats, and switching to efficient lighting or equipment can reduce energy bills—without compromising comfort or service.



Reliability & Resilience

- **Peak energy demand puts stress on the grid.** In cold snaps and heat waves, overuse can increase risk of power outages and lead to peak demand charges.
- **Using less = stronger community.** Cutting energy waste helps keep our local grid more reliable, especially during extreme weather. It also supports Nelson Hydro's goals for a stable, community-owned energy future.



Aligns With Local Values

- **Nelson businesses care about the environment.** Saving energy demonstrates sustainability leadership and helps protect the places we love—like Kokanee Glacier, Whitewater Mountain Resort, and the forests, lakes, and trails that make our region special.
- **Supports your purpose.** Less money spent on energy means more to invest in what matters—whether it's serving up the best coffee in town or getting people out on the slopes.



Everyone Can Take Action

- From turning off lights to powering down equipment and adjusting heating, **simple actions add up.**
- Your business choices help reduce emissions, cut costs, and build a climate-resilient future for Nelson.